

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-22 were pending in the application and were rejected in the Office Action. Applicants have not amended the claims.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

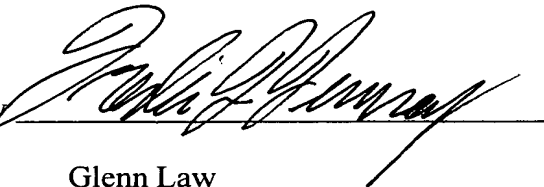
The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0036763 ("Krikke"). As discussed in the Amendment filed November 26, 2003, this rejection is now moot due to the filing of the certified copy of the priority document, the filing date of which (*i.e.*, February 21, 2001) antedates Krikke's § 102(e) of July 3, 2001. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2136.05. Applicant continues to assert that Figures 1, 2, and 3 of the priority document (which correspond to Figures 1, 2A, 2B, and 3 of the instant application) provide support for claims 1 and 3. However, to provide additional aid to the Examiner, Applicant submits concurrently herewith a certified English language translation of the priority document DE 101 08 254.1.

CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, claims 1-22 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HERewith, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HERewith, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.